

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #11 – AUGUST 28, 2020

- [New detections](#)
- [Testing radio tags](#)
- [Experimental trapping](#)
- [Live traps go up](#)

NEW DETECTIONS

BIRCH BAY – WORKER



On August 19, WSDA and USDA were setting experimental traps in the Birch Bay area near where the unmated queen was trapped in July. In the process, they happened upon a trap set by one of WSDA's cooperators – a local beekeeper – and discovered a dead worker Asian giant hornet inside.

The worker was considerably smaller than the specimens detected up to that point – underscoring the fact that Asian giant range in size from 1.5 inches (or even less) to 2 inches. This is a good reminder for those checking traps to keep their eyes open for smaller specimens, too.

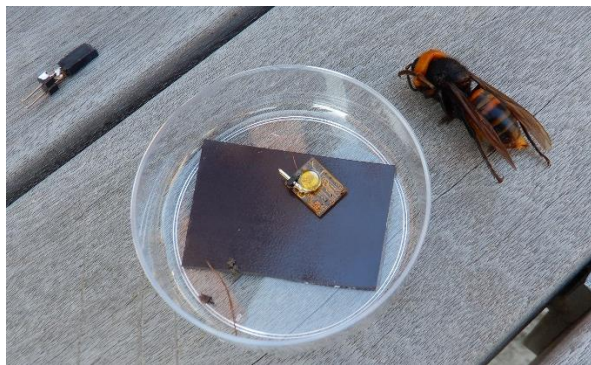
BIRCH BAY – UNKNOWN



On August 19 a member of the public posted a picture of an Asian giant hornet on a Facebook advertisement that WSDA was running. The reporting party said the image was taken at Birch Bay on August 18 at a restaurant on Birch Bay Dr. They were dining outside when the Asian giant hornet flew up. They were able to get a photograph of the hornet but it flew off without being captured.

TESTING RADIO TAGS

Last week WSDA's Pest Program met up with researchers at the University of Washington to test out radio tags for tracking live Asian giant hornets back to their nest. The trials appeared to be very promising for the potential to successfully track Asian giant hornets.



EXPERIMENTAL TRAPPING

WSDA's Chris Looney and USDA's Jackie Serrano resumed their experimental trapping for Asian giant hornets last week. The first experimental traps were placed in the spring in an attempt to catch queens. (None were caught.) The current experimental trapping is intended to test how well various attractants work. The experimental traps have been placed in Birch Bay near recent catches as well as near the site of confirmed hive attacks from last year.



LIVE TRAPS GO UP

After finding the worker in a trap on August 19, WSDA began setting live traps on August 20 in Birch Bay. The traps are intended to catch live Asian giant hornets, which can then be tagged and tracked back to their colony. Once a colony is located, it will be eradicated. WSDA is now waiting to find the first live Asian giant hornet.



If anyone should find a live Asian giant hornet in their trap, they should email us and hornets@agr.wa.gov and call the Asian giant hornet hotline at 1-800-443-6684.

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